THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The VRS scheme was announced in the year 2004 but could not be implemented due to financial constraints.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) to (h) No steps have been taken at present as funds for implementation of this scheme are yet to be allocated.

Land for National Museum in Bangalore

935. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the State Government of Karnataka has written and offered the recently acquired encroached lands to various Government Departments to construct their office buildings;

(b) whether such land in the heart of Bangalore is offered to the Archaelogical Survey of India also;

(c) if not, whether the Central Government propose to sanction land in Bangalore for construction of a National Museum to show-case history of South India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Historical monuments on verge of destruction

936. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of monuments of historical importance are on the verge of destruction;

(b) if so, the details of such monuments, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for their deteriorating conditions; and

(d) the steps taken by the Central Government to protect these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Archaeological Survey of India protects and maintains 3667 notified monuments of national importance and these are in a good State of preservation.

Conservation of centrally protected monuments is a continuous process. Under the Annual Conservation Programme, the Archaeological Survey of India takes up conservation, preservation, maintenance and environmental development of monuments of national importance.